

GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Northumberland



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the



SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

year ended 31st December, 1958.

Council Offices
GOSFORTH.
Northumberland.

Tel: Gosforth 52053

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health,
South Area Health Office,
Newburn Road, Throckley.
Tel: 674365.

Madge Hopper, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector

George Stenger, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector G. Brian Davison, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerks -

Mrs. C.E. Raine.

Miss W. Oliver.

ANNUAL REPORT 1958.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I again have the honour of presenting the Annual Report for the year.

The satisfactory trend of recent years continued with a slight increase in the population and in the number of births, and a slight decrease in the total number of deaths; so that the natural increase of the population which had dropped back to only 66 in 1957 rose to the more usual level of 127..

The infant mortality rate, which is often regarded as a gauge of the health of a district, reached a new low level of 10.7 per 1000 live births, being less than half the national rate. No infant death due either to infective causes or to congenital defect was registered. This is an extremely encouraging feature of the year.

Deaths from cardio-vascular causes decreased and those from respiratory diseases remained fairly static.

A considerable increase in the number of deaths from malignant disease took place to 71 total deaths from 46 the previous year. The increase was especially in death from malignant disease of the lungs and in the classification of "other sites" chiefly abdominal. The number of deaths at the hospital which were included in this classification had increased by four.

The drop in the number of fatal motor accidents to one from three the previous year, was very welcome, but the number of fatal accidents other than motor vehicle, rose to nine from seven in 1957. Five of the latter type of accident occurred at the hospital in elderly patients suffering from chronic diseases.

A slight increase in the general downward fall in the mortality rate and the incidence of Tuberculosis was shown. Inward transfers of tubercle rose to 13 during the year, a slightly higher number than usual.

The extremely large decrease in the number of notifications of infectious fevers during the year to 145 from 863 in 1957 was entirely due to the marked drop in incidence of Measles. In the previous year, 775 cases were notified, and 1958, 16 only, thus faithfully following the pattern of bi-ennial increase.

Notification of Primary Pneumonia and Sonne Dysentery also showed a slight decrease while those of Scarlet Fever continued at the low level of 11.

Only notifications of Whooping Cough showed an increase to 79 cases, from 27 in 1957, in spite of the continuance of prophylactic injections at a steady level.

There was no notification of acute poliomyelitis for the second year in succession and no case of food poisoning was notified.

Other services continued smoothly through the year, some progress was made in diminishing the more obvious sources of atmospheric pollution from large chimneys and further progress in this respect is envisaged as regards domestic smoke.

The activities of the organisations working for the welfare of old people also went on at a steady and gradually increasing pace as personnel and funds allowed. The enthusiasm of these voluntary workers command ones respect and admiration.

May I express my thanks to the staff of the Health Department, especially Mr. Stenger, Chief Public Health Inspector for his devoted work throughout the year, to Mr. Davison the new additional Public Health Inspector, and to Mrs. Raine and Miss Oliver for their sustained work.

I thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population of the Urban District of Gosforth was 25,430 in 1958 according to the Registrar General's mid-year estimate.

It is concentrated in a relatively small area, consisting of four wards. The district is mainly residential, the inhabitants working in the neighbouring city of Newcastle upon Tyne and adjoining districts of Tyneside. Some business offices are situated in the district; there are few industries.

The population increased by 440 on that of the previous year.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births showed a slight increase to 373 in 1958 from 345 the previous year. The number of male and female births were similar.

There were seven illegitimate births included in these compared with 12 in 1957.

The birth rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) was 15.4 per thousand population, a slightly lower rate than the national one of 16.4. The rate for 1957 for this district was 15.1.

Twelve still births were registered in the course of the year compared with fourteen the previous year and four in 1956. The still birth rate was 31.2 per thousand live and still births compared with the rate for England and Wales of 21.6.

DEATHS.

Registration totalled 346 deaths, 159 male and 187 female. Included in these were 101 deaths which occurred at the St. Nicholas Hospital and were not transferable. Of the 101, 41 were male and 60 female.

This gave a death rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) for the year of 11.1; the rate for the previous year being 12.7 and the corresponding rate for the country for 1958, 11.7.

There was a decrease of 63 deaths in the district on the number for the previous year.

NATURAL INCREASE IN THE POPULATION.

The excess of live births over deaths during the year, excluding the deaths of residents of the hospital, was 127. In the year before, this natural increase in the population had declined considerably to only 66 from 170 the previous year. This figure for 1958 more closely approaches the usual figure for the district.

INFANT MORTALITY.

As in 1957 there were four deaths of infants under one year of age. All four deaths occurred during the first week of life, three of them were due to prematurity and one to atelectasis. This gave an infant mortality rate of 10.7 per thousand births closely corresponding to that of the previous year of 11.2. This rate for 1958 is only half that for England and Wales which was 22.5 per thousand live births.

It is worthy of note that no case of infection contributed to the infant mortality rate, nor was there any death due to congenital defect, so that the continued effort by all workers in the field of maternity and child welfare seems to be showing very encouraging results.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

It is pleasing to be able to report that no death from maternal causes was registered. There was one in the previous year. The maternal mortality rate for the country was 0.43 per thousand related births.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Deaths classified in the group of heart and circulatory diseases showed a marked decrease to a total of 147 from 217 in 1957 and 176, in 1956. 74 deaths occurred at the St. Nicholas Hospital.

Deaths from vascular lesions of the nervous system also decreased to a total of 42 from 58.

A significant increase took place in the number of deaths registered from malignant neoplasm. There was a total of 71 deaths in this classification compared with 46 in 1957 and 49 in each of the preceding two years.

An increase was markedly shown in the number of deaths from malignant disease of the lungs and bronchi which in previous years had only slightly increased but in 1958 the total was doubled to 21 deaths registered compared with 11 in 1957 and 9, in both 1956 and in 1955.

Deaths classified as from malignant neoplasia of 'other sites' also increased by approximately 50 per cent from 22 in 1957 to 35, in 1958.

Four deaths from Leukaemia, three having other contributory causes were registered. Two deaths from this cause occurred in 1957 and four in 1956.

Deaths from respiratory diseases classified as a group, have remained at a similar level during the last few years; the total number in 1958 being 33, in 1957, 29, and 31 in 1956,

No death from Influenza was registered during the year. In 1957 there were four deaths, which was unusually high.

A very welcome drop in the number of deaths from Motor Vehicle accidents occurred, to one compared with three, in 1957 and five, in 1956.

On the other hand the number of fatal accidents, other than motor vehicle ones, again rose to a total of nine from seven, in 1957, and two in 1956.

Five of these deaths occurred in the hospital from accidental falls in elderly patients who were suffering from chronic diseases.

One death of a resident was caused by the clothing catching fire in an elderly person. Another was asphyxia due to accidental inhalation of coal gas and two were due to accidental falls and their complications.

Two deaths from suicide occurred during the year as in the two previous years. The number of deaths in this group has fortunately declined in the last two years.

There was one death due to homicide.

11. TUBERCULOSIS.

Two deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered in 1958. There had been no death from Tuberculosis in the previous year. One of these deaths was at the hospital and the other was of a resident of the district. No death from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis was registered compared with two in the previous year.

The mortality rate for Tuberculosis (all forms) for the urban district was 0.07 per thousand population and that for the country was 0.10.

The total number of new notifications of Tuberculosis (all forms) in the course of the year was 24, 20 pulmonary (14 male and 6 female) and 4 non-pulmonary, (1 male and 3 female).

In the previous year 21 cases of tuberculosis (all forms) were notified, 18 pulmonary and three non-pulmonary.

There was, therefore, a very slight increase in incidence this year mainly in the male respiratory group of 25-35 years and also in the older male groups, and a slight decrease of six in the number of female notifications of respiratory infection compared with eight in the previous year.

Notifications of non-respiratory tuberculosis numbered four in 1958 and three, in 1957. In each year there was one in the 1-5 years age group.

As is general throughout the country the mortality rate from Tuberculosis has considerably declined. The incidence was similar to that of 1956, a very slight increase in a general downward fall.

In addition to the new notifications, 13 cases, (11 pulmonary and two non-pulmonary) were inwardly transferred to the district from other districts where they had been previously notified, and one case was returned to the register after removal.

In the previous year ten cases (nine pulmonary and one non-pulmonary) were inwardly transferred.

During the last few years a total of 64 cases have been inwardly transferred to the urban district. The number of these inward transfers keeps up the size of the Tuberculosis register.

Patients attend the Chest Clinic at New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne under the care of the Senior Chest Physician, and are admitted to Walkergate Hospital and the various sanatoria of the region within a very short time of diagnosis, or of requiring further treatment.

Family contacts are kept under surveillance by the Chest Clinic and at home by the Health Visitors, particularly children at risk. B.C.G., vaccination is given to children as necessary both at clinic and school with the parents consent.

The housing conditions of tuberculous patients, especially new notifications is kept under review.

The Maßs Radiography Unit did not visit the district in 1958 but is expected to do so during the next year. The last visit of the Unit was in October, 1957, and it is hoped that a visit will be paid about every eighteen months.

111. GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

The total number of infectious diseases notified showed a very considerable decrease in 1958 to a total of 145 from 863 in 1957. Of course the abnormal increase in notifications in 1957 was wholly due to an epidemic of measles that year when 775 cases were notified.

All the notifiable infectious diseases showed a decrease in the number of notifications during 1958 with the exception of Whooping Cough which doubled in incidence.

Measles. During the whole of the year only 16 cases were notified. The pattern of bi-ennial increase has been marked during the last few years, 1957 being an epidemic year and in 1955 there were 238 cases.

In a closely populated area such as the Urban District where infection from one child to another can spread rapidly this is not to be wondered at.

Whooping Cough. Up to 1958 there has been a general pattern of steady decline in incidence during the previous few years from 130 cases notified in 1954 to 24, in 1957. However, in 1958 there was a rise to a total of 79 cases notified. This rise in incidence was in spite of an increase in the number of children receiving protection against Whooping Cough. It may, of course, be purely a phase. The cases were generally of a mild type.

The peak period of notification was in July when there were 42 cases. Otherwise sporadic cases only occurred during the other months of the year.

Scarlet Fever. Notifications of this disease remained at the low level of 11 cases in the year as in the previous year. The steady decline of the last few years has continued as has the very mild type of illness.

Diphtheria. No case of Diphtheria was notified compared with the one very mild case of the previous year.

The immunisation records showed a high level of immunisation of children in this district. In 1958 a total of 92% of the children up to 14 years of age had been immunised at some time in their lives, and the total Immunity Index of children under 15 years of age (i.e. immunised during the last five years) was 64%.

Dysentery. Sixteen cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified compared with 21 in 1957, and 37, in 1956. The cases occurred sporadically in separate families. Three and four cases occurred in two families. Several positive contacts were found on investigation and both patients and symptomless positive excretors were kept under surveillance and had treatment by their family doctors until cleared.

In two cases the illness was of an unusually severe type and one patient, a child, was admitted to Walkergate Hospital and as the illness was diagnosed at the hospital the case was notified to the Medical Officer of Health of Newcastle upon Tyne. On investigation of the family in this district it was found that the father, mother and another child had had similar, though less severe symptoms, and their stools were positive to the organism. All were kept under surveillance and treatment until clear.

Food Poisoning. No case of Food Poisoning was notified during the year compared with three in the previous year.

In May, a case of illness due to *Salmonella* paratyphoid B was reported in a resident of Gosforth temporarily living at an address at Blyth. The husband of the lady was found to be a symptomless excretor.

After discharge home to Gosforth from Walkergate Hospital the patient was kept under surveillance and treatment, as well as her husband.

No link with food could be established.

Typhoid Fever. In September two contacts of Typhoid Fever which occurred in a neighbouring district were kept under surveillance for the requisite period. Stool specimens were negative.

Poliomyelitis. It is satisfying to report that no case of poliomyelitis occurred during the year compared with three in 1956. There was also no case notified in 1957.

A contact of a case of paralytic poliomyelitis in an authority some fifteen miles distant was kept under surveillance, with negative results.

Primary or Virus Pneumonia. Altogether 14 cases were notified in the course of the year compared with 17 in 1957, and 10, in 1956. Six of these cases occurred in April and three in February.

Influenza. The epidemic of Influenza which occurred in the autumn of 1957 had abated at the turn of the year.

As in previous winters in accordance with the Ministry of Health's request, the general practitioners of the district co-operated in keeping watch for any increase of prevalence, as distinct from the common cold and its complications.

Several cases of Pneumonia occurring in the early months of the year may have resulted from the preceding epidemic of Influenza due to Virus A.

IV. HOUSING.

The total number of houses erected by the Council since 1944 was 1490; 46 being erected in 1958. These figures were supplied by Mr. Wyld, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

Two tuberculous families were re-housed to more suitable housing accommodation on medical grounds.

At the end of the year applications for Council houses numbered 948. This figure was supplied by the Housing Officer.

V. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. Two new cases were brought to the notice of the Department. One of these cases concerned an elderly gentleman residing with relatives who, on investigation was not considered suitable for any action under this part of the Act, and the matter was referred to the County Welfare Department.

He was subsequently removed to Holmlands, a residential establishment at North Shields. The remaining new case concerned two elderly ladies and here again it was not necessary to take any action as the matter was already in the hands of the family doctor. These cases together with those already known to the Department involved ten visits.

Section 50. Burial or Cremation of the Dead.

It was not found necessary to take any action under this section.

VI. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

During the year 88 samples of milk and 20 samples of ice-cream were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. No samples of milk were submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli.

Details concerning the results of these samples will be found in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

VII. FOOD HYGIENE.

Over 400 visits were made in the course of the year by the Public Health Inspectors to the various food premises in the district.

I am pleased to report the continued high standard of hygiene in food premises throughout the district.

VIII. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The installation of two new boilers with mechanical stokers at St. Nicholas Hospital was completed in 1958.

I understand that ultimately these boilers will serve the Collingwood Hospital, the Sanderson Orthopaedic Hospital and the laundry situated in the grounds of St. Nicholas Hospital. When this project is completed a further step forward will have been taken to reduce the incidence of atmospheric pollution in the district.

Complaints were received from residents in the district of a smoke nuisance from industrial premises situated just outside the district. Observations were made of the "offending" chimneys and in consequence contact was made with the requisite Authority. It is understood that warning notices were served upon each occupier of the premises concerned.

Clean Air Act, 1956, (Appointed Day) Order, 1958.

Certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, were brought into operation by the Clean Air Act (Appointed Day) Order, 1956. This order brought into operation on the 1st day of June, 1958, the remaining provisions of the Act including provisions relating to the prohibition of dark smoke from chimneys, measures for dealing with grit and dust from furnaces, abatement of smoke nuisances and the application of the Act to railway engines, vessels and Crown premises.

LX. HEALTH EDUCATION.

The Department in conjunction with the Road Safety Committee co-operated closely with the County services in a special drive in the autumn in the prevention of accidents in the home, through posters, leaflets, etc.

A display of special films on the subject was held in the Central Hall and was very well attended. Publicity through posters and leaflets on health subjects was continued as in previous years.

X. WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE.

The activities of the Old People's Welfare Committee continued apace all during the year. The system of "friendly" visiting to those unable to get out much was well organised and must be a "highlight" to many old people.

The chiropody service was of great use and may need expanding in the near future. The Committee also arranged a private car service for short outings in the summer which was much appreciated.

The Darby and Joan Club caters for the needs of the mobile section of the old people.

XI. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Details are contained in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

(a) Regional Hospital Board. There are two hospitals in the Urban District, the St. Nicholas Hospital for the treatment of mental illness and the Sanderson Orthopaedic Hospital.

(b) Tuberculosis Service. Cases attend the Chest Clinic, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne under the care of Senior Chest Physician, Dr. Verity.

Sanatorium treatment is provided in the various sanatoria of the region or the Walkergate Hospital or at the Children's Hospital at Stannington.

(c) Local Authority Services. Services (3) (4) (5) (6) and (7) and the care of the buildings in Section (2) are administered by the South Area Health Sub-Committee of the Northumberland County Council.

(1) Home Nursing and Midwifery.

Two general nurses are domiciled in the district and one at Brunton Park. Two midwives are resident in the district.

(2) Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

At the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Church Road, Gosforth, regular sessions are held for babies, children and expectant mothers; for dental treatment, for the treatment of eye defects and skin diseases, and other special groups of people such as poliomyelitis sessions for children and adults.

(3) Ambulance Service.

The nearest depot is situated at Wideopen, three miles to the north of the district. The depot covers the Urban Districts of Gosforth and Longbenton (with the exception of West Allotment) and adjacent parts of Castle Ward, and works in conjunction with the other depots in the County.

A driver-supervisor is in control of the station, the establishment of which consists of 14 driver-attendants, (including two stretcher bearers) and four radio-control assistants.

There are five ambulances (three petrol and two diesel) and one sitting car.

All calls between 4.0 p.m. - 8.0 a.m. weekdays and from noon on Saturdays to 8.0 a.m. Mondays from the southern part of the County are received at Wideopen and relayed to the eight southern stations in that area. This system has worked satisfactorily since 1956.

In the course of the year, ambulances of this station made 6394 journeys, carrying 21,578 patients, including 686 accident and emergency cases, and 3445 stretcher cases, and did a total mileage of 167,213 miles.

(4) Immunisation and Vaccination.

As for many years previously vaccination against Diphtheria was carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and by the general practitioners of the District.

At the 31st December, 1958, a total of 92% (92%) of the children up to 14 years of age had been immunised at some time during their lives. This included 82% (81%) children 0-4 years and 98% (98%) 5-14 years.

The Immunity Index which shows the number of children immunised during the last five years gave the following results :-

Children under one year	27%	(28%)
" 1-4 years	94%	(94%)
" 5-14 years	55%	(65%)

The Immunity Index for children under 15 years was 64% (71%).

In view of the Poliomyelitis campaign which was in full swing all during the year there was only a slight decrease in the Diphtheria immunisation figures mainly in the Immunity Index 5-14 age group.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that the Immunity Index for children under one year and up to 4 years showed little change.

Efforts were made by all concerned to help in the proper spacing of the vaccinations and injections advised for young children, so that the importance of immunisation against Diphtheria was not lost sight of.

Whooping Cough Prophylaxis. In the course of the year 301 children (417) received prophylactic injections against Whooping Cough chiefly by the triple antigen of Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis.

262 (301) children under one year of age were done, 52 (96) of 1-4 years and 7 (20) of 5-14 years.

Tetanus. The use of triple antigen which includes Tetanus increased considerably in popularity in 1958.

276 children received this protection compared with 42 in 1957 and 20, in 1956.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis. This campaign continued apace throughout the year. It is impossible at this stage to give figures for the urban district per se, but approximately 80% of the children in the South Area had received 2 injections by the end of the year. In the autumn third injections were commenced and the age group extended to include young persons up to 26 years of age. The initial response to this group was poor but later somewhat improved.

Vaccination against Smallpox. A considerable decrease took place in the number of vaccinations against Smallpox; 153 (250) primary vaccinations being done and 59 (76) re-vaccinations.

This is the smallest total number of vaccinations during the last few years since 1954 and it is hoped that in this next year the figures will improve now that the peak of the Poliomyelitis campaign has probably been reached.

Increased effort is needed in this direction to reduce the number of the population at risk in this age of rapid travel.

(5) Home Help Service. A total of 243 (241) persons residing in the Urban District received the services of a Home Help for varying periods in the course of the year.

The cases were 33 (18) confinements, 17 (52) of acute illness, 180 (160) aged and infirm persons, 8 (6) blind, and 4 (5) tuberculous persons, and one family for the care of children in the absence of the mother.

This service is well used in Gosforth, particularly among the aged and infirm where the number of patients served increased by 20 and in confinement cases where again there was a slight increase.

(6) Care and After-care. As in former years, the Gosforth and Castle Ward After-care Sub-Committee held regular meetings at three-monthly intervals. The Sub-Committees activities had been extended to cardiac and other chest diseases. Several such cases

received help in varying forms during the year, and aid to tuberculous persons in need of extra milk and clothing, payment of travelling expenses of relatives to hospital, and help toward rehabilitation was continued.

(7) Nursing Care Committee. The valuable work of this Committee continued and articles of nursing equipment were loaned to residents of the district for varying periods. The Committee kept the supply of articles up-to-date and in good condition.

310 separate articles of equipment were loaned to 176 persons and 109 visits were paid in connection with renewals. In addition 31 wheelchairs were on loan, mainly during the summer.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.Particulars of District.

Area	1739 acres
Registrar General's estimated population	25,430
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at 31st March, 1958	8,011
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£1,318
Rateable value at 31st March, 1958	£327,730

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live births (legitimate)	183	182	365
Live births (illegitimate)	4	3	7
Still births	6	6	12
Deaths	159	187	346
Birth rate per 1,000 population			15.4
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births			31.2
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			11.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There was no maternal death.

Death rate of infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	10.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	10.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	-

Deaths.

Deaths from Malignant Diseases (all ages)	71
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)	1

CAUSES OF DEATH.(taken from the Registrar General's Return).

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
All causes	159 (41)	187 (60)
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1 (1)
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	1 (1)	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	16 (2)	5 (3)
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	17 (4)	18 (1)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	2
Diabetes	2	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	18 (3)	24 (4)
Coronary disease, angina	18 (3)	15 (2)
Hypertension with heart disease	1	9 (2)
Other heart disease	35 (23)	56 (33)
Other circulatory disease	6	7
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	4	6 (4)
Bronchitis	10 (1)	9 (2)
Other diseases of respiratory system	3 (1)	1 (1)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1 (1)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
Nephritis and enphrosis	4	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	3	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5 (1)	15 (3)
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	4 (2)	5 (3)
Suicide	2	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	1

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS
(1939-1958) compared with rates for England and Wales.

Year	General Death Rate.		Infant Mortality Rate.		Birth Rate.	
	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales
1939	9.78	12.1	18.0	50	13.4	15.5
1940	11.2	14.3	64.4	55	13.5	15.1
1941	10.0	11.6	50.2	53	11.2	15.7
1942	9.47	11.6	13.6	49	14.4	16.3
1943	10.7	12.1	24.1	49	16.4	17.0
1944	10.7	11.6	29.6	46	18.2	18.1
1945	13.1	11.4	36.2	46	16.0	16.5
1946	10.6	11.5	22.8	43	17.6	19.6
1947	9.1	12.0	23.6	41	18.7	21.0
1948	9.9	10.8	24.7	34	16.7	18.3
1949	9.9	11.7	28.8	32	15.7	16.7
1950	13.1	11.6	11.4	29.8	14.5	15.8
1951	11.1	12.5	25.2	29.6	14.5	15.5
1952	9.2	11.3	24.9	27.6	14.6	15.3
1953	14.1	11.4	16.1	26.8	14.1	15.5
1954	13.5	11.3	35.1	25.5	15.3	15.2
1955	15.7	11.7	28.7	24.9	17.2	15.3
1956	11.2	11.7	14.4	23.8	17.0	15.7
1957	12.7	11.5	11.2	23.0	15.1	16.1
1958	11.1	11.7	10.7	22.5	15.4	16.4

INFANT MORTALITY.

Prematurity	1 hour
Prematurity	1 day
Atelectasis	2 days
Prematurity	5 days.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.

The table on page 20 gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Cases requiring hospital treatment and isolation are removed to the hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walkergate. This hospital is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

Appended is a summary of Bacteriological reports received from the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital, on specimens submitted by local medical practitioners and by the Health Department.

	<u>Positive.</u>	<u>Negative.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Throat swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	2	5	7
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	-	5	5
Throat swabs for Coagulase positive staphylococci	2	6	8
Throat swabs for organisms of Vincent's Angina	-	5	5
Specimens of faeces for pathogenic organisms	30	59	89
Specimens of sputum for Tuberculosis	1	-	1
	<hr/> 35	<hr/> 80	<hr/> 115 <hr/>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Table of cases notified in the Urban District during 1958, set out in age groups.

	At all ages	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & over
Scarlet Fever	11	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	79	2	7	10	8	7	43	2	-	-	-	-
Measles	16	-	1	-	4	1	10	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric-Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	16	1	3	3	-	2	1	-	-	3	1	2
Pneumonia	14	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	2	1	3	4
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	3
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	145	3	12	14	12	11	65	3	2	6	10	7

FOOD POISONING RETURN, 1958.

Food Poisoning Notifications (corrected) as returned to the Registrar General.

1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.
--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.
-----	-----	-----	------

Cases otherwise ascertained:-

Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
-----	-----	-----	-----

Fatal Cases :-

Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
-----	-----	-----	-----

<u>Particulars of Outbreaks</u>	Nil
---------------------------------	-----

<u>Single Cases</u>	Nil
---------------------	-----

<u>Salmonella Infections, not food-bourne</u>	Nil
---	-----

Appendix D.

Salmonella (type)	Outbreaks		No. of cases (outbreaks)	Single cases	Total No. of cases (outbreaks & single cases.
	Family	Other			
Paratyphoid B.	-	-	-	One case (notified outside district) & one symptom- less excretor	One

TABLE OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>No. of cases of Diphtheria.</u>	<u>No. of Deaths.</u>
1936	39	-
1937	25	-
1938	27	2
1939	23	1
1940	8	1
1941	9	-
1942	10	1
1943	5	1
1944	12	1
1945	15	-
1946	5	-
1947	3	-
1948	3	-
1949	-	-
1950	1	1
1951	-	-
1952	1	-
1953	-	-
1954	-	-
1955	-	-
1956	-	-
1957	1	-
1958	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIOD	<u>New cases</u>		<u>Non-respiratory.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Respiratory Male	Female.	Male.	Female.	Respiratory Male.	Female	Non-respiratory Male	Respiratory Female.
Under 1 yr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5-10 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20 years	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20-25 years	-	1+(2 I.T)	-	1	-	-	-	-
25-35 years	3+(2 I.T)	2+(4 I.T)	1	-(1 I.T)	-	-	-	-
35-45 years	3+(1 I.T)	3+(1 I.T)	-	-(1 I.T)	-	-	-	-
45-55 years	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65 years	2	-(1 I.T)	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 and over	1+(1 R.R.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14+(3 I.T.) 6+(8 I.T.) 1 3+(2 I.T.) (1 R.R.)					1	1	-	-

I.T. Inward transfer
R.R. Returned to register.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

New cases on the register (including inward transfers)				Deaths.		No. on register at the end of yr.						
	Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.
1943	10	6	16	1	-	1	-	1	1	14	21	35
1944	17	18	35	-	-	-	1	1	1	8	17	26
1945	17	10	27	3	3	6	1	1	1	10	22	32
1946	14	8	22	2	4	6	1	1	1	10	24	35
1947	11	7	18	1	4	5	1	1	1	11	24	35
1948	12	13	25	5	4	9	1	-	2	10	24	34
1949	22	17	39	2	1	3	-	-	1	5	14	19
1950	16	11	27	2	3	5	2	1	3	6	14	20
1951	22	9	31	2	2	4	1	1	2	7	17	24
1952	17	17	34	1	6	7	-	-	1	9	14	23
1953	11	17	28	7	7	14	3	-	3	10	17	27
1954	27	15	42	2	2	4	1	-	1	13	23	36
1955	19	20	39	4	5	9	-	-	-	13	23	36
1956	16	13	29	2	2	4	-	-	-	14	23	37
1957	16	12	28	2	2	4	2	2	-	16	21	37
1958	18	14	32	1	5	6	-	-	2	18	20	38

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1958.

Quarter ended	No. of cases on register at commencement of quarter.		No. of cases notified for the first time		No. of cases removed from register.		No. of cases remaining		
	Pul.	Non-pul	Pul.	Non-pul	Pul.	Non-pul	Pul.	Non-pul	
31st Mar. 1958	Males	125	18	7	-	3	2	129	16
	Females	98	21	7	-	5	2	100	19
30th June, 1958	Males	129	16	4	-	2	-	131	16
	Females	100	19	1	2	4	1	97	20
30th Sept. 1958	Males	131	16	8	1	2	-	137	17
	Females	97	20	2	2	5	2	94	20
31st Dec. 1958	Males	137	17	2	-	5	-	134	17
	Females	94	20	1	1	-	-	95	21

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Once again it is my pleasing duty to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ended the 31st December, 1958.

Mr. Neil Scott succeeded Mr. Oxley as Additional Public Health Inspector to this Council and took up his appointment on the 18th November, 1957. His period of service with this Council was, however, comparatively shortlived, as on the 25th April, 1958, he terminated his appointment to take up a similar appointment in Tanganyika. Mr. Scott was a very keen and conscientious official and I feel he should do well in his profession. I sincerely offer him my very good wishes for his future.

Mr. Scott's successor was Mr. Brian Davison who came from the Border Rural Council and who took up his appointment on the 1st September, 1958.

During the period between Mr. Scott's departure and Mr. Davison's arrival, I was without an assistant and not unnaturally routine work suffered to some extent.

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the district has a piped water supply provided by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. I am again indebted to the Engineer of the Company for supplying the following information relating to the bacteriological and chemical analyses of samples of water taken throughout the Company's area during the year under review.

Bacteriological Analysis.

At the Company's laboratories, 1175 samples of water were examined bacteriologically, resulting in 1161 samples being classified "excellent", 6 "satisfactory" and 8 "unsatisfactory".

Various authorities within the Company's supply area also carried out their customary analyses and out of a total number of 369 samples thus examined, 359 were classified "excellent" and 4 "unsatisfactory". Of the remaining 6 samples taken from 4 different points in the City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne, follow-up samples and samples taken in the vicinity proved "excellent". Further examination of one of the points which had given an "unsatisfactory" and a "suspicious result", traced the cause to a contaminated tap washer.

The customary bi-monthly chemical analyses carried out by a firm of consulting chemists, gave very satisfactory results throughout the year.

Both bacteriologically and chemically the results of analyses throughout the year appear to be eminently satisfactory.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse Collection

Despite the considerable number of new houses erected during the year, and with no addition of staff, it was still possible, with certain exceptions, to maintain a weekly collection of refuse from all premises. The exceptions being, as I have stated in previous reports, periods following public holidays or during periods of adverse weather conditions.

The quantity of both house and trade refuse increased considerably. I would like to make a further appeal to householders and occupiers of trade premises alike, requesting them to refrain from depositing clean waste paper and cardboard in the dustbin, or mixing these materials with other items of refuse. These salvable materials should be placed at the side of the dustbin for collection by the collectors. The co-operation of all concerned in this small but important matter would be to the common good. Three distinct advantages would result from this co-operation - (a) increased revenue from the sale of waste paper (b) additional space provided in the dustbin for the reception of refuse, and (c) the simplification of the task of the disposal of refuse.

The quantity of trade refuse continues to increase despite the bi-weekly collection afforded to certain tradesmen i.e. meat purveyors, bakehouses, fishmongers, fruiterers etc. The number of tradesmen requesting bi-weekly collections is on the increase.

Refuse Disposal

The Benton Quarry and Wideopen tips, both situated in the urban district of Longbenton were the disposal points for the disposal of approximately 11,370 tons of refuse from this district. The expenditure incurred in this operation is equally borne by the Longbenton and Gosforth Councils.

On your behalf, may I once again be privileged to extend to the Chairman and members of the Longbenton Council a sincere word of thanks for continuing to grant to this Council facilities for the disposal of refuse.

Salvage Disposal

The quantity of waste paper forwarded to the Board Mills during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1959, was 380 tons, an increase of 12 tons over the previous financial year. The figure of 380 tons represents 1.25 tons per 1000 of population per month, and realised an income of £3,125.

The tonnage of the various grades of waste paper etc., and the income derived from the sale thereof is shown as follows:-

<u>Grade.</u>	<u>Tonnage.</u>			<u>Income.</u>		
	T.	C.	Q.	£.	s.	d.
Mixed	236	6	2	1773	8	6
Fibreboard	27	3	1	258	0	10
Newsprint	116	13	3	1093	14	0
	380	3	2	£3125	3	4

Despite my previous remarks this is indeed a very fine effort on the part of the residents of Gosforth, nevertheless the fact remains outstandingly clear that far too much clean paper is placed in the dustbin.

Costing Returns (1958-59)

At the time of compiling this report the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's Manual on Public Cleansing Costing Returns for the financial year 1957-58 in respect of the larger urban areas in England and Wales was not available. This being the case I was not able to compare the costs of this authority with authorities of comparable population.

The costs appertaining to this district and relating to 1000 of population and per 1000 premises are described below and for the sake of comparison I have covered a period of four years. I have also included similar costs relating to districts with a population range of under 30,000 so far as the figures are available.

Per 1000 of population

	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59
	£	£	£	£
Gosforth U.D.C.	500	545	564	591
Other Authorities	499	556	584	-

Per 1000 premises

	£	£	£	£
Gosforth U.D.C.	1498	1703	1606	1658
Other Authorities	1609	1810	1835	-

Two conclusions can be drawn from the above information, namely, that our costs compare most favourably with Authorities of comparable population, and that despite the considerable increase in the number of premises being catered for, by this Authority, there is no evidence of any significant increase in our unit costs.

Staff

I would like to conclude this section of my report with a word of praise for Mr. Oliver and the outside staff.

COST STATEMENT 1958 - 59

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals	Percentage of total gross expenditure
	1	2	3	4	5
	<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u> (Note (a))	£	£	£	%
1	GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
	(i) Labour (note (b))	9398	1521	10919	59.9
	(ii) Transport (note (c))	4194	1357	5551	30.4
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings (note (d))	93	29	122	0.7
	(iv) Other items (note (e))	195	1450	1645	9.0
	(v) Total gross expenditure	13880	4357	18237	100
2	GROSS INCOME (note (f))	78	3125	3203	-
3	NET COST	13802	1232	15034	-
4	Capital expenditure net from revenue (included above) (note (g))	-	-	-	
	UNIT COSTS (note (h))	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	16. 0	2 7	18. 7	
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	7 2	2 4	9 6	
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	23 6	2 1	25 7	
		£	£	£	
8	Net cost per 1,000 population	543	48	591	
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1522	136	1658	

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

10. Area (statute acres) - land and inland water 1739 acres
11. Population at 30th June, 1958 (Registrar-General's Estimate) 25430 persons
12. Total refuse collected (tons). (Estimated weighings) 11756 tons
13. Weight (cwts) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year) 25.3 cwts
14. Number of premises from which refuse is collected 9071 premises
15. Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly 100% of total
16. Average haul, single journey, to final disposal point (including - miles by secondary transport) 4 miles
17. Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection Nil %
18. Total refuse disposed of (of which - tons were disposed of for other local authorities) 11756 tons
19. Methods of disposal (Salvage excluded):
 - (a) Crude tipping - %
 - (b) Controlled tipping 100 %
 - (c) Direct incineration - %
 - (d) Separation and incineration - %
 - (e) Other methods (state nature) - %

 100

20. Salvage. Analysis of income and tonnage:

	Income (Included in Item 2)	Tonnage Collected (Included in Item 12)
	£	Tons
(a) Raw Kitchen Waste (note (a))	-	-
(b) Scrap Metal	-	-
(c) Waste Paper	3125	380
(d) Other Salvage	-	-
(e) Totals	<u>£ 3125</u>	<u>380</u>

21. Trade Refuse:

- (a) Income Nil £
- (b) Tonnage Nil tons

NOTES

- (a) Comprising the expenditure directly attributable to the service, including sums paid to other local authorities. Excluding all expenditure and income arising from the operation of kitchen waste processing plant but including expenditure on normal collection of raw kitchen waste and (against Items 2 and 20(a)) an appropriate amount of income corresponding to its sale.
- (b) "Labour" means all employees other than clerical staff, drivers and mechanics. Expenditure includes holiday and sick pay, bonus payments, all superannuation charges, employer's contributions to national insurance and the cost of protective clothing and uniforms.
- (c) Transport means all types of vehicles and expenditure includes running and maintenance costs, wages of drivers and mechanics and other revenue expenses (including loan charges).
- (d) Including running costs, maintenance expenses loan charges and all sums charged to revenue account in respect of the provision or renewal of buildings, plant, dustbins, etc. Costs of war damage should be excluded.
- (e) Including salaries and wages not already mentioned, payments to other local authorities for collection and/or disposal of refuse and payments to contractors. Excluding all administration and office expenses. No part of the Chief Officer's salary should be included.
- (f) To ensure statistical uniformity all salvage income (except raw kitchen waste) should be credited to Disposal. Trade refuse collection income should be credited two-thirds to Collection and one-third to Disposal. Income from raw kitchen waste should be credited to the account which bears the cost of its collection.
- (g) Item 4 excludes and Item 1 includes loan charges and contributions to depreciation funds.
- (h) Gross unit costs of collection and disposal should be based on the tonnages shown at Items 12 and 18 respectively but the net cost of disposal should be based on the tonnage of the council's own refuse, i.e. excluding refuse received from other local authorities.

HOUSINGIrton Street

During the year two reports on the condition of the dwelling houses in Irton Street were submitted to the Health Committee.

The most serious defects affecting these houses, which are approximately sixty-three years old, are the rising dampness in the ground floor flats and the dilapidated condition of the outhouses.

Closing Orders were made in respect of each of six ground floor flats.

Gibson's Cottages. (Station Road)

Subsequent upon the submission of reports to the Health Committee on the condition of the dwelling-houses in Gibson's Cottages, it was resolved that the area, comprising twelve houses be declared a Clearance Area pursuant to the Housing Act, 1957. It was further resolved to proceed to the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to include a small piece of land adjoining the area.

Rent Act, 1957.The Rent Restrictions Regulations, 1957.Part 1 - Application for Certificates of Disrepair

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| (1) Number of applications for certificates | 11 |
| | (two withdrawn) |
| (2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates | Nil |
| (3) Number of decisions to issue certificates | 8 |
| | (one pending) |
| (a) in respect of some but not all defects | 6 |
| (b) In respect of all defects | 2 |
| (4) Number of undertakings given by Landlords under
Paragraph 5 of the First Schedule | 4 |
| (4a) Number of notices outstanding in Form J | Nil |
| (5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under
proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule | Nil |
| (6) Number of certificates issued | 4 |

Part 11 - Application for Cancellation of Certificates.

(7) Applications by Landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	4
(8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	Nil
(9) Decision by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection	4
(10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	4

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE.A. Unfit Houses Closed

	Number	<u>Displaced Persons</u>	
		Persons	Families
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957.	2	7	2

B. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied

	By Owner	By L.A.
After informal action by Local Authority	37	-
After formal notice under -		
(a) Public Health Acts.	11	2
(b) Housing Act, 1936.	-	-

Drainage Systems and Drain Testing

The extent of the work in connection with the supervision of the lay-out and testing of new drainage systems, and the repair and reconstruction of existing systems was fairly considerable.

The bulk of this work was confined to the erection of three new schools in the district, and to the two new housing estates, i.e. the Pawdon Farm and Regent Farm estates. A total of 5285 yards of new drainage work was tested.

The drain cleansing service executed by the Health Department was again in steady demand. A nominal charge is made, and one of the supreme advantages attached to such a service is that choked drains are speedily and efficiently dealt with.

RODENT INFESTATION

The number of visits made in this particular connection showed a sharp increase upon the previous year. A total of eight hundred visits were made, involving one hundred and twenty-one dwelling houses and seven business premises. Primary inspections revealed that fifty-one dwelling houses were infested with rats and forty-six dwelling houses were infested with mice. In the remaining twenty-four dwelling houses no evidence of either rats or mice could be found.

In connection with the business premises, the occupiers concerned were requested to deal with the infestations.

No major infestations were encountered.

Sewer Maintenance Treatment

During the year, two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out, details of which are described below.

Treatment No.	No. of Man-holes Treated	Poison Takes	
		Partial	Complete
1	137	6	3
2	137	9	1

VERMINOUS PREMISES

The number of complaints received during the year was forty-two, and these were chiefly in connection with cockroaches and garden insects. The most troublesome of the garden insects were earwigs, wasps and red spiders. It was found that the incidence of the last named, a tiny red insect, was greatly increased during long spells of dry warm weather.

The number of premises inspected was forty-four, and including re-visits, a total of one hundred and five visits were made.

I am pleased to report that once again no complaints of bed-bug infestations were received in the Department.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the year nearly three hundred visits were made to the various shops in the district, which entailed spending a fair amount of time out of normal hours of duty in order to ascertain whether there was any infringement of the provisions of the Act dealing with the General Closing Hours and Sunday Trading.

Warning notices were served upon each of six traders for infringements of the provisions of the Act dealing with Sunday Trading. The traders concerned were also warned that on receipt of evidence of continued infringement the Council would consider taking court proceedings without further notice.

Frequent representations are made to me by occupiers of shops, other than mobile shops, on the question of bringing mobile shops within the controls imposed by the Shops Act, and on the question of what is deemed by them, to be unfair competition on the part of the mobile trader.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

There are one hundred and three registered factories in the district, seventy-four mechanical factories and twenty-one non-mechanical factories, and eight other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Authority.

Factories	No. on register	No. of Inspections	Notices Served
Mechanical	74	117	15
Non-mechanical	21	40	2
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	8	24	-
Total	103	181	17

The type of defect dealt with is shown as follows:-

Particulars	Defects found	Defects remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Lack of Cleanliness	1	1	-
Overcrowding	-		
Unreasonable temperature	-		
Ineffective drainage of floors	-		
Sanitary Conveniences:-			
(a) Insufficient	-		
(b) Unsuitable or defective	16	15	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-		
	17	16	-

The number of out-workers remaining on the list of out-workers at the end of the year was two. Both of these out-workers were engaged on the making, and alteration of wearing apparel.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Milk Supply

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk 2

Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk 11

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Pasteurised" milk . 10

Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk 8

Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Tuberculin Tested" (Pasteurised) milk 9

Number of supplementary licences issued to retail "Pasteurised" milk 10

Number of dealers licences issued to retail "Sterilised" milk ... 27

Number of supplementary licences issued to retail
"Sterilised" milk 3

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Number of persons registered as Distributors of milk 41

Number of premises registered as Dairies 2

Samples of Milk

During the year ninety-three samples of milk were procured, and of this number eighty-two samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue keeping quality test. Sixty-nine samples representing 84.1% of the total submitted, satisfied the test. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 88.1%.

Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) Milk

Out of a total of forty-eight samples submitted, thirteen (27%) failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue test. The number of producers associated with these unsatisfactory samples was seven. Four unsatisfactory samples were procured from one producer and three from another.

This rather high percentage of farm bottled milk failing to pass the Statutory Test is in my opinion, a little disturbing.

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) and Pasteurised Milk

Thirty-four samples of milk of these particular grades were submitted to the Methylene Blue keeping quality test and all were found to be satisfactory. A further seven samples were submitted, but the test was declared void, owing to the atmospheric shade temperature at which the samples are to be kept prior to testing exceeding 65°F.

Sterilised Milk.

Four samples of sterilised milk were procured and submitted to the Turbidity Test and all were found to satisfy the test.

Samples of Ice-Cream

During the year twenty samples of ice-cream were procured and submitted to the Methylene Blue test.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

GRADE	Methylene Blue Test				Phosphatase Test				Turbidity Test			
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Tuberculin Tested (TB)	35	13	48	73.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculin Tested (Past'd)	9	-	9	100.0	9	-	9	100.0	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised	25	-	25	100.0	25	-	25	100.0	4	-	4	100.0
Sterilised	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	69	13	82	84.1	34	-	34	100.0	4	-	4	100.0

The following table shows the results of the examination of these samples, together with their respective grading:-

Type of Sample. Prewrapped Loose		Time taken to Reduce Methylene Blue	Provisional Grade	Percentage of total
12	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours or more	1	65.0
Nil	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours - 4 hours	2	5.0
Nil	2	$\frac{1}{2}$ hour - 2 hours	3	10.0
Nil	4	0 hours	4	20.0

There is little about the above results I can really enthuse over, the only redeeming feature being the persistency with which prewrapped ice-cream falls into Grade 1.

It is a matter of some regret that all the Grade 4 samples were procured from the same producer. This particular ice-cream is manufactured outside the district, and needless to state, I have been in close contact with the Authority within whose district the ice-cream is manufactured.

There is only one manufacturer of ice-cream in this district, and the type of ice-cream manufactured is a complete cold mix. This is defined as a product capable of manufacture into ice-cream with addition of water only.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955 (Section 62)

Licensing of Slaughter Houses

There is only one slaughter-house in the district and it is privately owned and occupied by Messrs. T.N. Arkle & Son (Meat Purveyors) of 160 High Street, Gosforth. The slaughter house is situated at the rear of 160 High Street, and the licence appertaining thereto, is due to expire on the thirty-first day of January, 1959.

The number of animals slaughtered, together with the results of the inspection of the carcasses and organs, are shown in the table on page 41.

The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958.

These regulations made jointly by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Minister of Health come into operation on 1st January, 1959, in relation to new slaughterhouses and are designed to secure the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions in connection with the construction and operation of slaughterhouses and the handling of meat therein.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	237	Nil	1	617	Nil	Nil
Number inspected	237	Nil	1	617	Nil	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	1.68%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.26%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

They impose upon occupiers of slaughterhouses and others, requirements as to the construction, layout, drainage, equipment, maintenance, cleanliness, ventilation, lighting, water supply, management and personal hygiene.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

These regulations which come into operation on the 1st January, 1959, re-enact with certain modifications and additions the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No. 2) (Prevention of Cruelty) (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.

Food Premises

The number and type of the various food premises in the district is shown as follows:-

Type of Premises	No.	Type of Premises	No.
Grocers	27	Retail Bakers	10
General Dealers	24	Premises with "Off-licence"	9
Meat Purveyors	22	Fishmongers & Poulterers	6
Fruiterers	18	Bakehouses	4
Licensed Premises	22	Fried Fish & Chips	5
Confectioners	17	Cafes	3

I am pleased to report once again that generally speaking the standard of hygiene in the various food premises throughout the district remains high. It was necessary, however, to serve informal notices in connection with infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Two firms were warned in connection with employees found to be smoking in a food room where there was open food.

The number of mobile shops operating in the district is steadily increasing. Every opportunity is taken to inspect this type of "shop" and again, speaking generally, the standard of hygiene is fairly high. Non-compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations was usually found to be related to the lack of a supply of hot water.

The provision of a supply of hot and cold water or of hot water at a suitably controlled temperature in the mobile shop, which is included in the definition of a "stall" is restricted to food businesses carried on from a stall which consists wholly or partly of the supply of open food for immediate consumption.

Registration of Food Premises(Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955)

During the year five more food premises were registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955, bringing the total of registered premises up to eighty-one.

Fifty-five premises are now registered for the sale of ice-cream and twenty-six premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

The type and number of food premises registered as above, are shown as follows:-

Type of Premises	No. Regd.	Type of Premises	No. Regd.
General Dealers	22	Bakehouses	4
Meat Purveyors	16	Retail Bakers	4
Confectioners	17	Fruiterers	4
Grocers	7	Fishmongers	1
Fried Fish & Chips	5	"Off-licence"	1

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Section 2 (General protection for purchasers of food and drugs).

Section 8 (Sale etc., of food unfit for human consumption)

Only two complaints were received during the year. The first complaint alleged the finding of a splinter of glass in a pint bottle of milk.

The matter was fully investigated and duly reported to the Health Committee subsequent to which it was resolved that the action of the Senior Public Health Inspector be confirmed, and that no further action be taken.

The second complaint concerned the purchase of a meat pie, which was found to be unfit for human consumption. Legal proceedings were instituted, and the firm responsible for the sale of the pie was fined a sum of £20.

Unsound Food(Voluntarily Surrendered)

The following articles of food weighing 297 pounds were examined following their voluntary surrender and condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

56	Tins of Fish	8	Barrels Potatoes
50	" " Vegetables	7	Chicken Pies
27	" " Meat	11	Pounds Pork
27	" " Fruit	6	Packets Waffles
25	" " Chicken	2	Packets Sausage
8	" " Milk		

Disposal of Condemned Food

Following the practice of previous years, condemned meat, when in large quantities was forwarded to a local firm for processing into animal feeding meal, fertilisers, glues etc., prior to which it was suitably stained. All other types of food not suitable for processing were destroyed in the incinerator situated in the Council yard.

Adulteration of Food

I am indeed grateful to Mr. C.L. Arlidge for once again supplying me with details of samples taken by Officers of the Northumberland County Council in this urban district.

Mr. Arlidge informs me that a total of one hundred and seven samples, which included fifty samples of milk, were procured and all were found to be satisfactory. During the year nine samples of milk were taken at schools and found to be genuine.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The following tables show the number and nature of complaints received and dealt with during the year by your Public Health Inspectors, together with a summary of visits made and sanitary improvements effected.

TABLE 1.

(Complaints received and dealt with)

<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>No. of Complaints</u>
Accumulations	7
Vermin (Rats and Mice)	54
Dampness (Dwelling-house)	11
Disrepair (do.)	59
Vermin (Insects)	42
Defective dustbins	33
Defective drains	21
Foul smells	13
Atmospheric pollution	11
Miscellaneous	10
	<u>261</u>

TABLE 11.

(Summary of Visits)

Dwelling Houses	889
Cinemas and Dance Halls	5
Ditches and Streams	2
Drainage Systems	541
Drain Test:-	
Smoke	36
Water	289
Factories (Mechanical)	141
(non-mechanical)	40
Outworkers	7
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	115
Disinfections	8
Revisits	52
National Assistance Act	9
Rodent Infestation:-	
Rats	457
Mice	351
Refuse Collection - Supervision	553
Shops Act	289
Smoke Observation	3
Food Premises	435
Slaughter Houses	88
Verminous Premises	105
Workplaces & Offices	11
Miscellaneous	<u>177</u>
	<u><u>4603</u></u>

TABLE III.

(Sanitary Improvements Effected)

Chimneys or chimney stacks repaired	2
Doors repaired, rehung or renewed	5
Eaves-gutters cleaned-out, rep'd or ren'd	3
External walls pointed	4
Fallspouts repaired or renewed	3
Firegrates repaired, reset or renewed	1
Floors repaired, ventilated etc.	2
Roofs repaired	6
Sashcords renewed	1
Sink draining boards renewed/repared	1
Staircase repaired	1
Walls rendered internally	3
Wallplaster repaired or renewed	4
Water supplies repaired or renewed	10
Windows repaired; made to open	2
Yard paving repaired	2
Choked drains cleansed	31
Drains repaired	1
Dustbins provided	155
W.C. basins renewed	4
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	4
W.C. structures repaired or renewed	<u>1</u>
	246

CONCLUSION.

I am indeed grateful to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, The Chairman of the Health Committee and all other members of the Council, for the assistance and support afforded to me throughout the year.

My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. Hopper for her staunch support and guidance on the many and varied matters coming within the purview of the Department, and to the chief officials for their kindly advice and co-operation.

I extend a sincere welcome to Mr. Davison, who, despite the relatively short period he has served in the Department, has proved himself a very capable and efficient official. I trust that his association with this Council will be a happy one.

Once more it gives me very great pleasure to thank Mrs. Raine and Miss Oliver for their efforts during the year, which in no small way have contributed to the smooth running of the Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE STENGER,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

